

Aboriginal: Term used by the Federal Government of Canada, and includes First Nations (formerly Indian), Inuit and Métis peoples.

Algonquin: First Nations people who share a similar language and lifestyle, includes Blackfoot, Cree, Ojibway Nations.

Assiniboine: First Nations people who share a similar language and lifestyle, a branch of the Sioux Nation.

Athabaskan / Athapaskan: First Nations people who share a similar language and lifestyle, includes the Dene and Beaver Nations.

Birch-bark Canoe: Algonquin boat built from the bark of a Birch tree, waterproof and light-weight; still made today.

Cayuga (kye-OO-gah): “The people of the swamp”, originally from the New York State area.

Chief: Traditionally was a man, who was a leader among the First Nations people of Canada.

Clan Mother: In Iroquoian First Nations, a female leader of a clan.

Clan: A group of people united by marriage and ancestors; can also mean family or families.

Conservation: The act of protecting nature – water, plants and wildlife.

Dug-out Canoe: Iroquoian boat built from carving out a tree trunk.

First Nations: Indigenous people native to Canada; also known as Native and Indian.

Haudenosaunee (Ho-deh-no-shaw-nee): “The people of the longhouse”, traditional name of the Iroquois Confederacy people.

Huron: Name given to the Wendat people by the French.

Igloo / Iglu / Igluvigak: Snow house built by the Inuit of Northern Canada.

Indigenous: An original person of Canada; includes First Nations and Inuit.

Inuit: Indigenous people native to Northern Canada. In Inuktitut means “the people”.

Iroquoian: First Nations people who share a similar language and lifestyle, includes the Iroquois Confederacy and the Wendat Confederacy.

Iroquois Confederacy: A First Nations confederacy of Mohawk, Seneca, Oneida, Onondaga, and Cayuga Nations, who joined together under The Great Law of Peace; also known as the Iroquois League / Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

Kayak: Inuit boat built from animal hides, and designed for only one person.

Longhouse: An Iroquoian house, usually 200 feet long and 20 feet high, built for an entire clan; similar to a plankhouse.

Matriarch: A senior woman, who holds a position of authority and respect.

Métis: The Métis are a distinct group of Canadian people who developed a unique culture that grew out of Canada's fur trade heritage. The Métis are descendants of French Canadians and First Nations people.

Mohawk: Name for the Kanien'kehá:ka / Kanienkehaka Nation – “The people of the flint”, originally from the New York State area.

Ojibway: Also known as Ojibwa, Chippewa and Anishinabe; one of the largest Nations of First Nations people in North America today.

Oneida (oh-NYE-day): “The people of the standing stone”, originally from the New York State area.

Onondaga (ON-on-DAH-gah): “The people of the hill”, originally from the New York State area.

Plains First Nations: Nomadic First Nations peoples, who once lived in the regions from the Rocky Mountains to the southeast of Manitoba.

Plankhouse: Northwest coast house made of long, flat planks of cedar wood attached to a wooden frame; similar to a longhouse.

Seneca (SHE-neh-kah): “The people of the mountain”, originally from the New York State area.

Six Nations: Includes the Mohawk, Seneca, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Tuscarora Nations.

Tepee / Tipi: Tent-like house used by nomadic Plains First Nations, made of a cone-shaped wooden frame and covered with buffalo (bison) hide / skin.

The Great Law of Peace: Constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Three Sisters: Corn (maize), squash and beans, traditionally grown by Iroquoian women and children.

Tuscarora (tuh-skuh-roar-uh): “The hemp people”, originally from North Carolina, who joined the Iroquois Confederacy in 1722.

Wendat Confederacy: A First Nations confederacy of Wendat, Erie, Neutral and Petun Nations.

Wendat: Iroquoian speaking people who originally lived around the Great Lakes; also known as Huron.

Wigwam: Algonquin house used by nomadic tribes, made of wooden poles and covered in bark.